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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/699,372

10/31/2000

Courtney Hudson

5322-002

7828

78724

7590

09/03/2009

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EXAMINER

PORTER, RACHEL L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3626

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/03/2009

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/699,372	<b>Applicant(s)</b> HUDSON, COURTNEY	
	<b>Examiner</b> RACHEL L. PORTER	<b>Art Unit</b> 3626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 June 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-5,7-9,12-24; 48-53; 55-63 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) 1,19 and 24 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3-5,7-9,12-18,20-23; 48-53; 55-63 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This communication is in response to the amendment filed 6/23/09. Claims 1, 3-5, 7-9, 12-24; 48-53; 55-63.

#### ***Continued Examination under 37 CFR 1.114***

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 6/23/09 has been entered.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:  

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
4. Claims 12-16, 48-52, and 55-59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
5. Claims 12-16 recite the limitation "the completed application". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Claim 61 does not recite an application or the step of completing an application.

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6. Claims 48-52 recite the limitation "the completed application". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Claim 62 does not recite an application or the step of completing an application.

7. Claims 55-59 recite the limitations "the completed application" "the application". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Claim 62 does not recite an application or the step of completing an application.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

8. Claims 1, 19, and 24 are allowed.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claims 61, 3-5, 7-10, 12-14, 17-18,62, 20-23,63, 48-50,55-57, and 60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knight (USPAP 2002/0099570) in view McAlindon (US 7,251,609)

[claim 61] Knight discloses a method for matching patients with clinical trials, comprising:

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- receiving patient profile information for a patient at a server connected to a computer network, the patient profile information submitted over the Internet by a user at a terminal connected to the network; (par. 68)
- comparing the patient profile information with acceptance criteria for clinical trials stored in a database, the comparison performed by the server; and (par. 52,63,69-70)
- automatically, determining whether the patient prequalified for any of the clinical trials based on the comparison of the patient profile information with the acceptance criteria; and (par. 52,63)
- notifying the user that the patient has prequalified for any of the specific clinical trial; (par. 73—trial contact information appears)
- presenting to the user a series of questions targeted to the at least one specific clinical trial after determining that the patient prequalifies for any of the clinical trials; (par. 70)
- determining whether the user prequalifies for at least one specific clinical trial based on the users response to the targeted questions; and (par. 70)
- storing the responses to the targeted questions. (par. 70-73)

Claim 61 further recites:

- receiving acceptance criteria for clinical trials and a series of questions targeted to at least one specific clinical trial at a server, wherein the acceptance criteria for clinical trials and the series of questions targeted to

at least one specific clinical trial are provided over the Internet by a system of a clinical trial sponsor or investigator;

Knight discloses receiving disease and trial information from disease experts. (par. 63-64) Knight further discloses that when trials are submitted to the system, appropriate screening questions are associated with the trial's eligibility criteria. (par. 128-129) Knight does not expressly disclose that the acceptance criteria for clinical trials and the series of questions targeted to a specific clinical trial are provided by a clinical trial sponsor or investigator.

McAlindon discloses a system and method wherein the acceptance criteria for the clinical trial are received from a clinical trial sponsor or investigator via the Internet (col. 3, lines 3-25; col. 6, lines 1-12; col. 18, lines 1-36) At the time of the applicant's invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the method of Knight with the teaching of McAlindon to provide eligibility criteria and targeted questions from the clinical trial sponsor or investigator. As suggested by McAlindon, one would have been motivated to include this feature to minimize the time burdens and delays associated with gathering participants and observations for clinical studies. (See McAlindon: col. 2, lines 26-65)

[claim 3] Knight teaches a method further including providing the user with instructions for enrolling in the clinical trial for which the user has prequalified. (par. 73—the user is sent contact information if he/she qualifies)

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[claim 4] Knight teaches a method further including asking the user a plurality of questions and creating a patient profile based on the responses to the plurality of questions. (figure 1; par. 68—e.g. gathering demographic data)

[claim 5] Knight teaches a method of claim 4, wherein the step of asking the user a plurality of questions includes: asking the user one or more static questions; asking the user one or more dynamic questions which are selected based on the user's responses to other static and dynamic questions; and creating a the patient profile based on the responses to the static and dynamic questions. (Figures 1, par. 68, 72-75)

[claim 7] Knight teaches a method of wherein static questions, dynamic questions, and targeted questions are provided with a plurality of answer options, and the user may select one or more answer options in order to answer the questions. (Figure 3-6; par. 75-77)

[claim 8] Knight teaches a method of claim 7, wherein the user is required to submit an answer in a specified format, the specified format being suitable for evaluation by a computer program process. (par. 57: e.g. web-based interface)

[claim 9] Knight teaches a method further including updating the static questions, dynamic questions, or answer options. (par. 84-85)

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[claim 10] Knight teaches a method wherein the network is the Internet. (par. 57: e.g. web-based interface; par.75—web pages presented)

[claims 12-13] Knight discloses a method wherein the user answers several steps of questions on-line, wherein the data is submitted by the user on-line and that this data is stored on a server. (See 112, 2nd par. regarding "completed application" :Figure 1, Figures 29-30) Knight further discloses that user may enroll in or register in a particular trial (par. 70)

[claim 14] Knight teaches a method wherein the patient profile is forwarded to clinical trial site (par. 109,125 (See 112, 2nd par. regarding "completed application",), but does not expressly disclose that the profile information is sent with the application/consent form. McAlindon discloses a method wherein the patient profile is sent with the application/consent form to the clinical trial site. (col. 5, lines 6-35) At the time of the Applicant's invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the method of Knight the teachings McAlindon to have the patient online application (e.g. consent/enrollment form) and patient profile forwarded to the clinical site. As suggested by McAlindon, one would have been motivated to include this feature minimizing the time burdens and delays associated with gathering participants and observations for clinical studies. (See McAlindon: col. 2, lines 26-65 )

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[claim 17] Knight discloses a method wherein the user is provided with a search engine that allows the user to search for medical information before selecting a clinical trial.

(par. 65-68)

[claim 18] Knight teaches a method wherein the acceptance/matching criteria include geographic location. (par. 76/Fig. 4—geographic location and preferences are match criteria)

[claim 62] Knight discloses a system for matching patients with clinical trials, comprising:

- a server connected to the Internet ;(Figure 29)
- a data storage device included in the server, and (Figure 29)
- a database located in the data storage device, the database storing patient profile information for a patient and acceptance criteria for a plurality of clinical trials;  
(Figures 29-30, par. 68)
- the server:
  - o comparing the patient profile information with the acceptance criteria for the clinical trials stored in the database, (par. 63,69)
  - o automatically, determining whether the patient prequalifies for any of the clinical trials based on the comparison of the patient profile information with the acceptance criteria; and (par. 63)

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- notifying the user that the patient has prequalified for at least one specific clinical trial; (par. 73—trial contact information appears)
- presenting to the user a series of questions targeted to the at least one specific clinical trial after determining that the patient prequalifies for any of the clinical trials; (par. 70)
- determining whether the user prequalifies for the at least one specific clinical trial based on the user's response to the targeted questions: and (par. 70)
- storing the responses to the targeted questions (par. 70-73)

Claim 62 further recites:

- receiving acceptance criteria for clinical trials and a series of questions targeted to at least one specific clinical trial at a server, wherein the acceptance criteria for clinical trials and the series of questions targeted to at least one specific clinical trial are provided over the Internet by a system of a clinical trial sponsor or investigator;

Knight discloses receiving disease and trial information from disease experts. (par. 63-64) Knight further discloses that when trials are submitted to the system, appropriate screening questions are associated with the trial's eligibility criteria. (par. 128-129) Knight does not expressly disclose that the acceptance criteria for clinical trials and the series of questions targeted to a specific clinical trial are provided by a clinical trial sponsor or investigator.

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McAlindon discloses a system and method wherein the acceptance criteria for the clinical trial are received from a clinical trial sponsor or investigator via the Internet (col. 3, lines 3-25; col. 6, lines 1-12; col. 18, lines 1-36) At the time of the applicant's invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the method of Knight with the teaching of McAlindon to provide eligibility criteria and targeted questions from the clinical trial sponsor or investigator. As suggested by McAlindon, one would have been motivated to include this feature to minimize the time burdens and delays associated with gathering participants and observations for clinical studies. (See McAlindon: col. 2, lines 26-65)

[claim 20] Knight teaches a system wherein the database contains information on disease records; drug records; clinical trial records; and patient profile records. (par. 66; 75-77)

[claim 21] Knight teaches a system wherein a record in the database contains links to other related records. (Fig. 30)

[claim 22] Knight teaches a system wherein the server transmits a plurality of questions to the user over the network, the server also transmits a plurality of answer choices for each question, the server receives responses from the user, and the server builds a patient profile based on the responses. (Figures 1, par. 68, 72-75)

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[claim 23] Knight teaches a system wherein the server retrieves a disease/subdisease record corresponding to a disease/sub-disease entered by the user, the disease/-sub-disease record containing links to question records, the server retrieving the question records to access questions to be provided to the user. (Figures 1-2; par. 72)

[claim 63] Knight discloses a computer executable software code stored on a computer readable medium, performing a method for matching patients with clinical trials, comprising comprising:

- receiving patient profile information for a patient at a server connected to a computer network, the patient profile information submitted over the Internet by a user at a terminal connected to the network; (par. 68)
- comparing the patient profile information with acceptance criteria for clinical trials stored in a database, the comparison performed by the server; and (par. 52,63,69-70)
- automatically, determining whether the patient prequalified for any of the clinical trials based on the comparison of the patient profile information with the acceptance criteria; and (par. 52,63)
- notifying the user that the patient has prequalified for any of the specific clinical trial; (par. 73—trial contact information appears)

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- presenting to the user a series of questions targeted to the at least one specific clinical trial after determining that the patient prequalifies for any of the clinical trials; (par. 70)
- determining whether the user prequalifies for at least one specific clinical trial based on the users response to the targeted questions; and (par. 70)
- storing the responses to the targeted questions. (par. 70-73)

Claim 63 further recites:

- receiving acceptance criteria for clinical trials and a series of questions targeted to at least one specific clinical trial at a server, wherein the acceptance criteria for clinical trials and the series of questions targeted to at least one specific clinical trial are provided over the Internet by a system of a clinical trial sponsor or investigator;

Knight discloses receiving disease and trial information from disease experts. (par. 63-64) Knight further discloses that when trials are submitted to the system, appropriate screening questions are associated with the trial's eligibility criteria. (par. 128-129) Knight does not expressly disclose that the acceptance criteria for clinical trials and the series of questions targeted to a specific clinical trial are provided by a clinical trial sponsor or investigator.

McAlindon discloses a system and method wherein the acceptance criteria for the clinical trial are received from a clinical trial sponsor or investigator via the Internet (col. 3, lines 3-25; col. 6, lines 1-12; col. 18, lines 1-36) At the time of the applicant's

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invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the method of Knight with the teaching of McAlindon to provide eligibility criteria and targeted questions from the clinical trial sponsor or investigator. As suggested by McAlindon, one would have been motivated to include this feature to minimize the time burdens and delays associated with gathering participants and observations for clinical studies. (See McAlindon: col. 2, lines 26-65)

[claims 48-49] Knight discloses a method wherein the user answers several steps of questions on-line, wherein the data is submitted by the user on-line and that this data is stored on a server. (See 112, 2nd par. regarding "completed application" :Figure 1, Figures 29-30) Knight further discloses that user may enroll in or register in a particular trial (par. 70)

[claim 50] Knight teaches a method wherein the patient profile is forwarded to clinical trial site (par. 109,125 (See 112, 2nd par. regarding "completed application")), but does not expressly disclose that the profile information is sent with the application/consent form. McAlindon discloses a method wherein the patient profile is sent with the application/consent form to the clinical trial site. (col. 5, lines 6-35) At the time of the Applicant's invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the method of Knight the teachings McAlindon to have the patient online application (e.g. consent/enrollment form) and patient profile forwarded to the clinical site. As suggested by McAlindon, one would have been motivated to include this

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feature minimizing the time burdens and delays associated with gathering participants and observations for clinical studies. (See McAlindon: col. 2, lines 26-65 )

[claim 53] Knight further discloses a system claim 19, wherein the user is provided with a search engine (i.e. that allows the user to search for medical information before selecting a clinical study.) (par. 65-68)

[claims 55-56] Knight and McAlindon disclose a computer executable software code of claim 63 as explained in the rejection of claim 63.

Knight teaches a method wherein the patient profile is forwarded to clinical trial site (par. 109,125 (See 112, 2nd par. regarding "completed application"), but does not expressly disclose that the profile information is sent with the application/consent form. McAlindon discloses a method wherein the patient profile is sent with the application/consent form to the clinical trial site. (col. 5, lines 6-35) At the time of the Applicant's invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the method of Knight the teachings McAlindon to have the patient online application (e.g. consent/enrollment form) and patient profile forwarded to the clinical site. As suggested by McAlindon, one would have been motivated to include this feature minimizing the time burdens and delays associated with gathering participants and observations for clinical studies. (See McAlindon: col. 2, lines 26-65 )

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[claim 57] Knight and McAlindon disclose a computer executable software code of claim 63 as explained in the rejection of claim 63. Knight discloses a method wherein the user answers several steps of questions on-line, wherein the data is submitted by the user on-line and that this data is stored on a server. (See 112, 2nd par. regarding "completed application" :Figure 1, Figures 29-30) Knight further discloses that user may enroll in or register in a particular trial (par. 70)

[claim 60] Knight and Schmidt disclose a computer executable software code of claim 63 as explained in the rejection of claim 63.

Furthermore Knight discloses a method wherein the user is provided with a search engine that allows the user to search for medical information before selecting a clinical study. (par. 65-68)

11. Claims 15-16, 51-52, and 58-59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knight, and McAlindon as applied to claims 61-63, and in further view of Kraftson et al (USPN 6,151,581).

[claim 15] Knight discloses a method wherein non-identifying patient information maybe forwarded to the trial site (par. 82) and also discloses that the system is designed to protect patient sensitive patient data (par. 125). However, Knight does not expressly disclose that the patient record and application include a patient ID to conceal the patient's identity. Kraftson teaches a system/method wherein a random ID number

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is assigned to a patient's profile and questionnaire to conceal/protect the patient's identity. (col. 12, lines 53-62)

At the time of the Applicant's invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the method of Knight and McAlindon with the teaching of Kraftson to store the patient's information with a patient ID number. As suggested by Kraftson, one would have been motivated to include this feature to ensure that the patient is free to answer questions honestly and accurately with fear that his/her information will be divulged. (col. 12, lines 35-49)

[claim 16] Knight teaches a method/ system further including notifying the clinical trial sponsor when the user submits patient information/registration information to the clinical trial site. (par. 131 e.g. sharing data with pharmaceutical companies) However, Knight does not expressly disclose that the sponsor is notified when the patient enrolls/ consents to participation in the study.

McAlindon discloses a system and method in which the clinical trial sponsor is notified when a completed application/consent form is submitted to a clinical trial site. (see 112, 2nd paragraph rejection regarding "the completed application" --see Figure 2, col. 6, lines 19-25). At the time of the Applicant's invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the method/system of Knight with the teaching of McAlindon to notify clinical trial sponsors when users have submitted an application/enrolled in the study. As suggested by McAlindon, one would have been

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motivated to include this feature to expedite the data gathering process from qualified candidates . (col. 1, line 63-col. 2, line 10)

[claim 51] Knight discloses system a wherein non-identifying patient information maybe forwarded to the trial site (par. 82) and also discloses that the system is designed to protect patient sensitive patient data (par. 125). However, Knight and McAlindon do not expressly disclose that the patient registration information and application include a patient ID to conceal the patient's identity.

Kraftson teaches a system/method wherein a random ID number is assigned to a patient's profile and questionnaire to conceal/protect the patient's identity. (col. 12, lines 53-62) At the time of the Applicant's invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the system of Knight and Schmidt in combination with the teaching of Kraftson to store the patient's information with a patient ID number. As suggested by Kraftson, one would have been motivated to include this feature to ensure that the patient is free to answer questions honestly and accurately with fear that his/her information will be divulged. (col. 12, lines 35-49)

[claim 52] Knight discloses a server notifying the clinical study sponsor when the user submits patient information/registration information to the clinical study site. (par. 131). However, Knight does not expressly disclose that the sponsor is notified when the patient enrolls/ consents to participation in the study.

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McAlindon discloses a system and method in which the clinical trial sponsor is notified when a completed application/consent form is submitted to a clinical trial site. (see 112, 2nd paragraph rejection regarding “the completed application” --see Figure 2, col. 6, lines 19-25). At the time of the Applicant's invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the method/system of Knight with the teaching of McAlindon to notify clinical trial sponsors when users have submitted an application/enrolled in the study. As suggested by McAlindon, one would have been motivated to include this feature to expedite the data gathering process from qualified candidates . (col. 1, line 63-col. 2, line 10)

[claim 58] Knight and McAlindon teach a computer readable medium with executable code as explained in the rejection of claim 63.

Furthermore, Knight discloses method a wherein non-identifying patient information maybe forwarded to the trial site (par. 82) and also discloses that the system is designed to protect patient sensitive patient data (par. 125). However, Knight and McAlindon do not expressly disclose that the patient registration information and application include a patient ID to conceal the patient's identity.

Kraftson teaches a system/method wherein a random ID number is assigned to a patient's profile and questionnaire to conceal/protect the patient's identity. (col. 12, lines 53-62) At the time of the Applicant's invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the method of Knight and McAlindon with the teaching of Kraftson to store the patient's information with a patient ID number. As

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suggested by Kraftson, one would have been motivated to include this feature to ensure that the patient is free to answer questions honestly and accurately with fear that his/her information will be divulged. (col. 12, lines 35-49)

[claim 59] Knight and McAlindon teach a computer readable medium with executable code as explained in the rejection of claim 63.

Furthermore, Knight discloses a method further including a server notifying the clinical study sponsor when the user submits patient information/registration information to the clinical study site. (par. 131) However, Knight does not expressly disclose that the sponsor is notified when the patient enrolls/ consents to participation in the study.

McAlindon discloses a system and method in which the clinical trial sponsor is notified when a completed application/consent form is submitted to a clinical trial site. (see 112, 2nd paragraph rejection regarding "the completed application" --see Figure 2, col. 6, lines 19-25). At the time of the Applicant's invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the method/system of Knight with the teaching of McAlindon to notify clinical trial sponsors when users have submitted an application/enrolled in the study. As suggested by McAlindon, one would have been motivated to include this feature to expedite the data gathering process from qualified candidates . (col. 1, line 63-col. 2, line 10)

### ***Conclusion***

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

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Soetikno, Roy et al , "Quality of Life Research on the Internet: Feasibility and Potential Biases in Patients with Ulcerative Colitis." Nov/ Dec. 1997, Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association; vol. 4, no. 6, pp. 426-435..

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to RACHEL L. PORTER whose telephone number is (571)272-6775. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, (Christopher) Luke Gilligan can be reached on (571) 272-6770. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/R. L. P./  
Examiner, Art Unit 3626

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/C. Luke Gilligan/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3626